

Abstract

An electrically actuatable igniter (24) comprises a pair of electrodes (40) and (42). A heating element (44) is electrically connected between said electrodes (40) and (42). An ignition material (48) is in contact with the heating element (44). The ignition material (48) comprises a metal powder and an oxidizer that exothermically reacts with the metal powder. The metal powder includes macro-agglomerates of metal particles. The metal particles have an average diameter less than about 0.1 μm and have an oxide layer that prevents contact of the particles with the oxidizer. The ignition material (48) deflagrates when the heating element is heated to a temperature of at least about 250°C.

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